**GETTING TO KNOW “UNKNOWN VARIABLES”**

**LESSON REFLECTIONS**

**KIM NELSON**

1. **What was your favorite part of the lesson and why?**  
   The “Think of a Number” activity was a favorite activity, because it involved an element of magic. Students couldn’t, at first, figure out how the teacher knew what number they picked. Another favorite was the “Guess my Rule” game. Students enjoyed trying to figure out the function being used by the teachers and their fellow classmates.
2. **How effective was the lesson in meeting the objective? What was most effective?**   
   The lesson was judged by the teachers to be very effective because students were able to make connections with algebraic equations and properties such as the Distributive Property. The most effective aspect was the way in which students were compelled to create and solve their own equations as well as having to use what they learned to solve the equations of others.
3. **What parts of the lesson would you change? Why?**

Because it was difficult for most students to come up with their own equation, most teachers felt it would be more effective for the class to create a few rules/equations together before breaking up into groups. Another suggested improvement would be to break this lesson up into two or three lessons.

1. **Were there any parts that needed more explanation or time? How did you handle these situations?**

The 4th and 5th grade teachers felt that more time explaining the concept of “variables” would have helped solidify this concept in the minds of these students. Most of these teachers did spend a few minutes discussing variables with their students. The sixth grade teacher thought more time needed to be devoted to recording students’ reflections on this lesson in their Math journals so the teacher could better determine what aspects of the lesson his students did not grasp. In lieu of this time constraint, the 6th grade teacher assessed student understanding by having an open discussion regarding what they understood and didn’t understand about the concept of unknown variables.

1. **Did your students find the lesson meaningful and worth completing?**

Yes, they were attentive and engaged throughout the lesson.